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BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1966

1. Dr. Didsbury	C.407
2. Mr. Morley Parry	A.429
3. Mr. Perry	A.405
	A104

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B. Pharm., D.P.H.
holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer	}	5/11th of the time.
School Medical Officer.....		

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District	}
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum	
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.	
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District	

Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week
Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week
Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor:-

G.S.C. Udall, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.F.S (Eng.) - Deceased

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

P.D. Franklin, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (commenced duties October, 1966)

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1966

CHAIRMAN Councillor E.K. Hooper

VICE-CHAIRMAN Councillor J.F. Brown

COUNCILLORS: -

K.R. Browning

A.B.C. Davis

F.W. Eyles

P.L. Farquharson

C.F. House

D.W. Keen

F.H.B. Mainwaring Burton

C.B.C. Roe

S.R. Stenning

W.J. Thorne

Major G.T. Wright

Health Centre,
Rowlands Hill
Wimborne Minster.
Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1966 was marred by the sudden death of Mr. G.S.C. Udall, the Council's Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector for many years. This tragic event followed shortly after the separation of the surveying and public health duties into separate departments, the work of both of which then devolved upon Mr. Stockley for several months until Mr. Franklin assumed his duties of public health inspector in October.

The list of notifiable diseases provides the usual evidence of the vast strides in the prevention of infectious diseases made during recent decades, both by the application of scientific advances in the sphere of immunisation and by the advancement in social circumstances. Measles is now the only traditionally notifiable infectious disease of note which presents in large numbers. Little use has been made of the new vaccines against measles, partly because of the mild course the disease often pursues and partly because the more effective live vaccine itself produces symptoms of very mild measles in a proportion of cases. However, measles can occasionally still be rather vicious and one feels that greater use is destined to be made of the live vaccine in the future. There is at present no intention of widespread administration through the public health service.

There were two additions to the tuberculosis register, one new case and one transferred from elsewhere. One case was removed from the register. This step is never taken lightly, it follows years of careful supervision, so that it is safe to say that very few indeed of the cases on the register are actually infective.

1966 was not without its smallpox scare, this time the minor form of smallpox, which though not the killer that the major form is, nevertheless involves the same effort and technique to eradicate. We know that one very mild case sojourned in, and travelled through, Dorset while having the disease but not a single case of infection emerged from this. People still enjoy Mediterranean cruises, involving trips ashore in North Africa, without being vaccinated, and one is bound to describe this as anti-social behaviour. A definite risk is taken, not just by themselves, but for friends, neighbours, relatives and chance contacts, because it is easily possible to be back home in England before symptoms emerge. Modern air travel makes it possible to return to this country within the incubation period of any known infectious disease, and from time to time air passengers are warned that they have been in contact with a suspicious case of smallpox and necessitate action through the public health services. There are currently known to the World Health Organisation only about 50,000 to 100,000 smallpox cases annually throughout the world and the World Health Organisation is now embarking on a programme of eradication to rid the world for ever of this ancient scourge. It will involve about 1,790 million vaccinations in ten years!.

Last year I reported a peak in the incidence of lung cancer deaths, six in all, and it is pleasing to note that the number of cases dropped to two in 1966. The disease is nevertheless increasing nationally and the last twenty years has revealed again and again that its cause is primarily due to pollution of the atmosphere by smoke, mostly in the immediate vicinity of about 50% of the population through the agency of burning tobacco. In the past, cancer has claimed more women than men but of recent years men have strenuously and with success tried to equalise by smoking, and indeed 39% of all male cancer in England and Wales in 1966 was due to lung cancer. One of the few emancipations that remain to women is to smoke as much as men and it is depressing to learn that they are embarked/

upon this course. They will thereby regain their supremacy in the incidence of cancer. There are many who feel that emancipation from tobacco addiction is an urgent priority for both men and women.

Reference to the statistical tables on causes of death reveals that the largest single cause was due to coronary disease, which claimed 9 men and 7 women, four of them below 65, representing 16% of the total deaths; the comparable national figure is 20%*. The rise in incidence of this disease has been one of the features of the present century and is well shown by the experience of the last decade:-

CORONARY DEATHS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS (England and Wales and Administrative County).

<u>YEAR.</u>	<u>DORSET.</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES.</u>
1966.	21.3%	20% *
1965	20.7%	20.6%
1964	20.0%	19.6%
1963	18.2%	18.8%
1962	18.4%	18.4%
1961	18.5%	17.1%
1960	17.2%	17.5%
1959	16.7%	16.1%
1958	15.9%	16.0%
1957	16.2%	12.9%

* First 9 months of 1966

Certain contributory causes of this disease are established, for example, excess weight, lack of exercise and smoking, all of which are matters of personal choice, while others are inborn. The theory of a diet too rich in animal fat as another contributory cause of coronary disease has many strong adherents and those who wish to play for safety could profitably aim at frugality in such foodstuffs as animal fat, butter, eggs, cheese and milk.

Excess weight increases mortality from a variety of diseases ranging from heart disease, diabetes and peptic ulcer to surgical operation for any purpose. The effect is noticeable from such apparently innocent beginnings as 10 lbs excess (easily concealed under a lounge suit and not at all obvious in a bathing costume!), and becomes disastrous at 50% excess.

Lack of exercise correlates with the advance of the motor age and television has aggravated this. It can and often does reach surprising extremes, compare modern man with his ancestors several hundred years ago. He may be on his feet dressing for ten minutes, lounge at ease in a car on his way to work, sit in a chair all day, lounge at ease on his way back, and spend the evening at ease watching television, eating too much at intervals. All not in the least calculated to expand that network of small arteries, the coronary arteries, supplying his heart muscle. Even walking a few miles a day would be a great help, not that walking alongside modern roads is entirely free from risk and it is certainly not free from unpleasantness in the form of noise, fumes and dirt. Efforts by local authorities in recent years to identify and preserve footpaths, are by definition, of greater value to health than many realise and will certainly come more and more to be recognised as such. Operation Neptune helps for those near enough but why not convert disused railway tracks into the modern equivalents of the mediaeval green lanes or drovers tracks which used to traverse the countryside? Operation George (Beeching) Stevenson!.

Smoking has an adverse effect on mortality from numerous diseases and almost doubles the death rate from coronary disease. The rate being already a high one, smoking probably claims more lives in this way than by promoting lung cancer.

During the year continued progress in housing was made. The fifteen old persons' flats in Winterborne Stickland were commenced early in the winter. The large scheme at Blandford St. Mary for old peoples' flat-lets had been finalised and was awaiting commencement. Completion of these two schemes will make the Council's provision for old people very impressive.

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Surprisingly little difficulty has so far arisen with the type of old person who becomes incapable of independent existence even despite the friendly supervision of the warden. One case cropped up during the year, very reluctant to go into a County Council old persons hostel, but unable to cope with her excellent ground floor flat. After the exercise of patience on all sides, and with the willing and valuable good offices of the warden, the old lady finally agreed to a vacancy in a County Home and the transition to a fuller dependence was made amicably. It is in this sort of case that the warden can render such good services by a kindly and neighbourly approach to an old person who may stubbornly refuse to accept the inevitable.

There follows the customary details and statistics and the report of the Public Health Inspector - Mr. P.D. Franklin - who assumed his duties for the last quarter of the year.

L. B. Hopkinson

JULY, 1967

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	61,717
Population as estimated by Registrar General - (mid-year)	12,210
Rateable value at 1st April, 1966	£309,155
Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1966	£ 1,191.11.0
Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31/12/66	3,342

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Comparative Statistics</u>		
				<u>Blandford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Adminis- trative County</u>
Total number registered..	188	91	97			
Legitimate	180	86	94			
Illegitimate	8	5	3			
STANDARDISED BIRTH RATE				18.5	17.7	18

STILLBIRTHS

Total registered NIL

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Blandford Rural</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Adminis- trative County</u>
Total registered	98	54	44			
STANDARDISED RATE				9.3	11.7	10.9

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Births 1.22
Deaths 1.17

SECTION APUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory is situated in Dorchester and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Dorset County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic once a month in the Health Centre in Blandford where other services are also grouped, including the school dental service for the area, speech therapy, audiometry, family planning, special examinations, cervical cytology, chiropody for the elderly, ante natal classes and home help organiser. The registrar of births and deaths attends this clinic three times weekly.

HOME HELP SERVICE

A local organiser attends to the detailed administration of this valuable service and attends the health centre from 9 to 9.30 during weekdays.

SECTION BPREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES

Pneumonia	10
Measles	16
Scarlet fever	3
Tuberculosis	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases on the register are as follows:-

PULMONARY

Males	14
Females	11

NON-PULMONARY

Males	2
Females	1

SECTION CSTATISTICAL TABLES.....1966

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	2	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	7
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	7
20. Other heart disease	7	8
21. Other circulatory disease	3	2
22. Influenza	1	-
23. Pneumonia	2	5
24. Bronchitis	4	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	
31. Congenital malformations	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34. All other accidents	1	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	54	44

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT 1951

No action was necessary.

<u>VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS</u>											
<u>Oral</u> <u>Basic</u> <u>Course</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>			<u>Diphtheria</u>		<u>Tetanus</u>		<u>Whooping</u>		<u>Smallpox</u>	
	<u>Salk</u>							<u>Cough</u>			
	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
183	179	16	7	170	182	175	192	161	63	145	21

P = Primary Course

R = Reinforcing dose

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

GENERALLY

In preparing this report I have been somewhat hampered by the fact that I did not commence my duties with this Authority until October, 1966 following the unfortunate demise of my predecessor, Mr. Udall, in May of the same year. Of necessity most routine public health work had to suffer in deference to more urgent day to day duties under Building Regulations, Town and Country Planning etc., undertaken by the Surveyor, Mr. Stockley. The issue was further complicated by the fact that in February, 1966 the combined Surveyor's and Public Health Department was split into two entities, Mr. Udall becoming the sole Public Health Inspector to the Council.

With this in mind I have in some places prepared two sets of figures relating to various routine matters: one set being mine relating to the last quarter of the year and the other set, while containing some accurate figures, must also contain some estimated ones.

FOOD HYGIENE

The number of premises registered remains the same and all were inspected in 1966 at least once. The standard generally is minimally satisfactory with some exceptions - to which attention is being devoted. A quite considerable number of mobile traders operate within the Rural District and although this is not a unique problem it is a difficult one inasmuch as there are only limited times when they can be contacted for

inspection

inspection purposes. New mobile businesses tend to blossom like spring flowers and although many die as quickly the ones that remain seldom commence with more than a rudimentary idea of food hygiene or the legal requirements relating thereto. A start was made in 1966 when several traders were intercepted in an endeavour to see that the requirements of the various regulations were being met.

SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Suspect</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Drinking Water (including Public supplies)	27	2	3	32
Swimming Baths	2	1	-	3

HOUSING ACTS - STATUTORY OVERCROWDING

A case of statutory overcrowding was discovered in a farm service tenancy. Joint efforts with the Probation and Welfare Services secured a relief in the condition, although at the end of 1966 the solution was only temporary.

HOUSING

New houses completed during the year:-

(1) By Local Authority

(a) With State assistance for rehousing	3
(b) With State assistance for other purposes	-
(c) Without State assistance	-

(2) By other persons

(a) With State assistance	-
(b) Without State assistance	62

New houses commenced during the year but not completed:-

(a) By Local Authority	15
(b) By other persons	33

Housing Inspections:-

(1) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects	30
(2) Total number of houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	not known
(3) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation	not known

Housing

Housing Action: -

(1) Number of dwellings rendered fit after informal action	5
(2) Number of statutory notices served	0
(3) Number of statutory notices complied with	0
(4) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders made	3
(5) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(6) Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings accepted	1
(7) Number of houses demolished otherwise	8

FACTORIES

The position regarding power and non-power factories within the district appears to have been somewhat confused and an effort was made shortly before my arrival to sort this matter out with the Factory Inspector. Most of the factories, as may be expected, are power factories in which the interest of the Local Authority is strictly limited. These may present a slightly different picture in the figures from previous years. Of the factories inspected for enforcement of section 7 none has given cause for concern.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	0	0
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	38	38	1	0
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out workers premises)	0	0	0	0

(2)

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:-

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted</u>
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Section 9)	-	-	-	-	-

CLEAN AIR ACT AND NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

Several matters were successfully dealt with at informal level during the year and there was no recourse to statutory action.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1964

In common with the greater number of local authorities this Council seems to have had little option but to make a slow start in administering this Act. All the registered premises have been inspected once through the year and the general level of compliance with requirements appears to have been surprisingly good. Most of the detected infringements of the Act have been relatively small matters such as non-provision of thermometers etc. - although to off-set this rather rosy picture it must be borne in mind that in a rural district many of the workplaces falling within the scope of the Act have very small numbers of employees. In general, the large offices are within the curtilage of Factories and as such are inspected by H.M. Factory Inspector.

The Council's own house has been literally put in order and now possesses adequate heating and washing facilities and also very good facilities for the Council's manual workers.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council's Refuse Collections continued to function through the year operating with two men and one vehicle. It became increasingly obvious that the limited resources of the service were being taxed to breaking point and the decision was taken to give serious consideration to

the

the purchase of a second vehicle and the commencement of a weekly collection. This subject (although now finalised) was still under consideration at the end of 1966.

Negotiations to use land at Stourpaine for a refuse tip continued during the year and several joint consultations were held with the Town Council.

A "Portamac" metal frame building was purchased and erected and demonstration of various types of Bulldozing equipment was arranged at the site. Following this demonstration Committee approval was given for the purchase of an International B85 Loader. At the close of the year negotiations were still proceeding towards the final acquisition of the land and right of way.

SALVAGE

The value of waste paper has taken a dramatic tumble, as will be seen from last year's figures for salvage in parenthesis. At the end of December the Council's baler expired (in rather Parthian fashion and narrowly missing the operator's head) and the manner of its demise coupled with the decreasing value of paper caused the whole subject of salvage to come under close appraisal.

Waste Paper	£48. 11. 6d.	(£151. 1. 0d.)
Rags mixed	£10. 16. 0d.	(£ 13. 8. 9d.)
Non-ferrous Metals	£20. 2. 5d.	(£ 22. 19. 10d.)
Scrap iron	£31. 3. 6d.	(£ 98. 8. 9d.)
Batteries etc.	11. 0d.	(- - -)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

During the wet weather conditions which prevailed throughout most of the year, survey work was difficult although rodent life remained much as in previous years. Baits, however, appeared to be taken more readily and with quicker results. One noticeable feature was the greater incidence of field mice found in buildings. The work carried out was:-

Number of premises surveyed	476
Treatments carried out by Local Authority	249
Major infestations found - Rats	224
Mice	52
Properties infested - Rats	202
Mice	52
Total visits to all properties by Rodent Officer	1389

PETROLEUM

A new installation provided during the year was of a certain interest as it was specifically for the storage of petrol above ground for a local gliding club. All the model requirements were met and the installation was completed and approved. There appears to have been little in the way of testing existing installations carried out during the year.

MOVEABLE

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The two moveable dwelling sites within the district continued to be kept and operated in a clean and satisfactory condition. General requirements of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 appear to be adequately fulfilled.

SEWERAGE

The main part of the new sewerage scheme for Stourpaine and Durweston was completed on the 1st December, 1966. At the time of writing this report there are no accurate figures to hand for the number of connections already carried out as this matter is being dealt with in the first instance by the Contractor.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

	<u>Before October</u> <u>1966</u> <u>Some estimated</u>	<u>Since October</u> <u>1966</u>
Housing	30	32
Public Health Act	15	63
Food shops	24	11
Bakeries	-	2
Stalls and vehicles	-	8
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises	3	20
Factories	1	9
Food & Drug	1	46
Complaints	-	45
Interviews	-	117
Clean Air Act	-	2
Refuse Collection	125	75
Moveable dwellings	5	3
Rodent Control	-	47
Water Supplies	-	24
Sampling	-	7
Meetings & Visits	23	10
Building Regulations	158	25
Farms	-	3
Food Poisoning	-	2
Other visits	4	32
Refuse Tip	-	47
Town and County Planning	50	-
Petroleum	10	11
Gypsies	-	2
Scrap Metal	5	-
Infectious Diseases	-	19
Street Naming	8	-
Cafe	-	3
Sewage Pumping Sites	-	1

